

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09699 141119Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CIEP-03 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /147 W
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R 140932Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6018

INFO US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 112

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMTBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMABASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: ASEAN APPROACHES TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

REF: STATE 169111

1. AMBASSADOR WILFREDO VEGA CONFIRMED TO ECON/
COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AUGUST 13 THAT AS REPORTED REFTEL
ASEAN HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN REPRESENTED AT KINGSTON,
ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED.
VEGA SAID THE EEC HAD TAKEN POSITION WITH ASEAN THAT NO
ACTION COULD BE TAKEN ON ASEAN TRADE CONCERNS UNTIL
AFTER ACP MEETING HAD OCCURRED AND PROGRESS HAD BEEN
MADE ON MAJOR ACP TRADE INTERESTS.

2. VEGA SAID FURTHER THAT REPORTS OF THE KINGSTON
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PAGE 02 MANILA 09699 141119Z

MEETING WERE VERY POSITIVE FROM PHILIPPINE VIEWPOINT
IN THAT GOOD PROGRESS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN MADE ON

ACCOMODATING AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS ON FATS AND OILS AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUGAR. THESE RESULTS HE HOPED PORTENDED WELL FOR RESUMPTION EEC DISCUSSIONS WITH ASEAN.

3. VEGA REPORTED THAT AN EEC/ASEAN MEETING IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 20 IN JAKARTA AND THAT EEC REP (COMMISSIONER SOAMES) IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT MANILA DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK. ON PARTICULAR PHILIPPINE INTERESTS, VEGA BELIEVES THAT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS ABLE TO ABSORB AT LEAST 10 PERCENT MORE OF PHILIPPINE EXPORTS OF COCONUT OIL/COPRA, AND HE BELIEVES THAT AN ACCOMMODATION CAN BE REACHED.

4. IN A SIDE NOTE ON ASEAN/JAPANESE RELATIONS VEGA SAID RP/JAPANESE DISCUSSIONS WERE NOW OCCURRING ON A "SELECTIVE FREE TRADE AREA" WHICH WOULD HAVE THE FUNCTION OF PROVIDING THE JAPANESE A "WINDOW" ON ASEAN. QUERIED ON WHETHER SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS WERE OCCURING WITH OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS VEGA SIAD THAT DISCUSSION WAS OCCURRING AT THIS TIME ONLY WITH THE PHILIPPINES BECAUSE (A) THE FILIPINOS WERE MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE CONCEPT AND (B) THE JAPANESE SEEMED MORE COMFORTABEL (SIC) WITH DOING BUSINESS WITH THE FILIPINOS.
SULLIVAN

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